

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE
AMITE RIVER BASIN DRAINAGE & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Location: 3535 S. Sherwood Forest Blvd., Suite 135, Baton Rouge, LA 70816

October 26, 2021

MEMBERS PRESENT DURING ROLL CALL: David Hoover, Lionel Bailey, Ben Babin, Jack Harris, Felicia Lee, Richard St. Pierre, Don Thompson, Kenneth Welborn

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT AT ROLL CALL: Angela Machin arrived at 5:20 pm, James Little arrived at 5:29 pm.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Edwin Parker, Larry Thomas

VACANT SEAT: St. Helena Parish

ALSO, PRESENT: ARBC Executive Director Dietmar Rietschier, ARBC Executive Secretary Toni Guitrau, ARBC Legal Counsel Larry Bankston

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Hoover.

2. Roll Call (see above).

3. Prayer/Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Public Comments on Agenda Items: None.

5. Minutes

The Board unanimously approved a motion by Thompson, second by Bailey to approve the September 2021 regular meeting minutes.

6. Bailey presented to the Board the September 2021 General Fund and CRDC Fund financial statements. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Babin, second by St. Pierre to approve the September 2021 General Fund and CRDC Fund financial statements.

Note: Manchin and Little entered the meeting during the Executive Director's Report.

7. Executive Director Report

- Comite River Diversion Canal Project Report as follows:

- a. Comite River Diversion Canal. DOTD Report: Real Estate: 81 parcels acquired and 1 in closing status. Utility Relocations: There are 67 active utility relocations going on along the canal at various stages of construction. Negotiations between the State and Energy transfer on the two large gas pipelines are under negotiation. Rietschier also provided an update on the design, construction, and completion status of the US Hwy. 61, KCS RR, LA Hwy. 964, LA Hwy. 67 and LA Hwy. 19 bridges. Sections of channel: East of Hwy. 61, design is completed and are waiting for E. Irene gas transfer. Construction contract of Section of channel between Hwy. 964 and La. Hwy 19 has been awarded. The Cypress Drop Structure contract advertisement is to be issued in October/November 2021. The critical path in construction schedule is the Florida Gas Pipelines relocations. USACE estimated constructions schedule; Project completion December 2022.
- b. Regional Inundation Map: Bob Jacobsen is finishing the GIS layers to be delivered by December 2021. Currently having discussions with GIS Web enablers. Bob Jacobsen will deliver data files to web enabler. Once selected, there will be a Preliminary Interactive Map testing of 6 months then it will be moved to a public website customized for ARBC.
- c. Amite/Comite Maintenance/Surveillance Plan (tree removal; clearing; snagging). The RFQ public notice was in the Advocate on October 19, 2021. There will be a RFQ Q/A meeting on Monday, November 23, 2021 at 10 am at the ARBC office. This is not a flood reduction feasibility study. It is to help prepare a maintenance/surveillance plan/program for the Amite and Comite Rivers and to identify areas needing remediation, such as bank stabilization, clearing, snagging etc. It is to help prepare an application for tree removal, clearing and snagging of selected reaches of the Comite and Amite Rivers.

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- d. East Irene Road, Zachary, Louisiana gas transfer: It is estimated that all the residences will have the gas transfer completed in the 1st, or 2nd week of November. Present status is 2 houses completed; 2 houses transferring to electrical will have gas disconnected this week; 2 houses have tanks installed and are waiting for propane gas and installation of appliances; 2 houses are waiting for loaner tanks.
8. ARBC Legal Counsel:
 - Bankston discussed with the Board the concerns of the CRDC Project being completed December 2022 mainly because of the issues with the Florida Pipeline. The deal with the Florida Pipeline has not been reached and after it is reached, then it will take time to move the pipeline.
 - LWI Update: He and Rietschier attend zoom meetings hosted by LWI. There will probably be legislation in upcoming session to create framework but doesn't believe legislators will pass the proposal that was made by the CRPC. He noted that there were no elected officials in the LWI voting group. There are continuing discussions to come up with something.
 9. Old Business: See RFQ Update covered under the Executive Director's Report.
 10. New Business: 3-year extension, Amendment #5 ARBC Office Lease with Rob Hebert: As there are no changes to the lease, the Board unanimously agreed to extend the lease for an additional 3 years on motion by Thompson, second by Bailey.
 11. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Babin second by Little to adjourn the meeting at 5:45 pm.

APPROVED:

/s/ Edwin Parker, ARBC President

Date: 11/16/21

/s/ Toni B. Guitrau, Executive Secretary